

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 HELSIN 01893 151409Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T HELSINKI 1893

EXDIS

US ASAT DELEGATION 0014

NASA FOR KRUEGER

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: ASAT TALKS: RESTRICTED MEETING, JUNE 15, 1978

1. MEETING IN RESTRICTED COMPOSITION (BUCHHEIM, YORK,
KHLESTOV, MAYORSKIY) AFTER PLENARY JUNE 15, 1978, A.M.

2. BUCHHEIM SAID TO KHLESTOV THAT HE HAD NOTED
KHLESTOV'S REFRAINING FROM MENTION OF US COMMENTS ON
SUSPENSION OF ASAT TESTING. KHLESTOV SAID HE HAD SOME-
THING TO SAY ON THAT MATTER NOW, AND READ THE FOLLOW-
ING:

BEGIN TEXT: CONCERNING THE QUESTION PRESENTED BY
THE US DELEGATION ON THE CESSATION OF TESTS OF
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SPECIAL MEANS AGAINST SPACE OBJECTS, IT SEEMS TO US
THAT AT THE PRESENT STAGE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO
CONCENTRATE ATTENTION, FIRST OF ALL, ON THE DETER-
MINATION OF THE GENERAL CHARACTER AND SCOPE OF A
POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF
HOSTILE ACTS, AGAINST SPACE OBJECTS, WHICH ARE
INCOMPATIBLE WITH PEACEFUL RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES.

END TEXT.

3. ABOVE TEXT IS TRANSLATION FROM VERBATIM RUSSIAN.
AFTER INITIAL READING, KHLESTOV REPEATED IT TO
MUROMCEW TO TAKE DOWN IN FULL.

4. AFTER KHLESTOV'S READING, BUCHHEIM TOLD KHLESTOV
THAT THE US SIDE HAD SOMETHING FURTHER TO SAY ON THE
IDEA OF SUSPENSION OF TESTING, NOTING THAT US STATE-
MENT IN PLENARY JUNE 14, 1978, HAD INCLUDED REFERENCE
TO AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD OF TIME AND OTHER DETAILS.
BUCHHEIM TOLD KHLESTOV THAT: (A) US HOLDS STRONG
VIEW THAT ASAT COMPETITION SHOULD BE AVOIDED, BUT
ALSO MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF ASYMMETRY WHICH NOW EXISTS
BECAUSE OF FACT THAT USSR HAS BEEN TESTING ASAT
SYSTEMS WHILE US HAS NOT; (B) US RECOGNIZES THAT THE
SCOPE OF THE PRESENT ASYMMETRY IS LIMITED TO SOME
EXTENT BECAUSE USSR HAS TESTED ONLY UP TO SOME
ALTITUDE "X," THUS ACQUIRING EXPERIMENTAL INFORMATION
WHICH IS RELIABLE UP TO SOME ALTITUDE "Y" -- WHICH THE
USSR KNOWING MORE PRECISELY THAN THE US WHAT FIGURES
TO PUT DOWN FOR "X" AND "Y"; (C) THEREFORE, IF THE
TWO SIDES WERE TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OF DETAILS OF
A TEST SUSPENSION, THE US SIDE WOULD SUGGEST A BAN OF
INDEFINITE DURATION ON ASAT TESTING AT ALTITUDES
GREATER THAN "Y" AND A SUSPENSION FOR SIX MONTHS OF
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ASAT TESTING AT ALTITUDES LESS THAN "Y".

5. KHLESTOV ASKED IF US SIDE ENVISIONED A TEST SUS-
PENSION WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT ONLY TESTING IN SPACE OR
WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT ALSO DEVELOPMENT AND TEST
WORK IN GROUND FACILITIES AND THE AIR. BUCHHEIM
SAID US SIDE WAS TALKING ABOUT ONLY AN UNDERTAKING
NOT TO TEST IN SPACE AND WAS REFERRING TO DETAILS ONLY
FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERIM UNDERSTANDING WHILE A COM-
PREHENSIVE AGREEMENT IS BEING DEVELOPED. HE ALSO
SAID THAT THE US RECOGNIZED THAT AN IMMEDIATE
UNDERTAKING TO STOP DEVELOPMENT WORK IN, FOR EXAMPLE,
LABORATORIES COULD NOT BE VERIFIED BY NTM AND, FURTHER,
THAT THE US WAS NOT WILLING TO UNDERTAKE IN AN INTERIM
UNDERSTANDING TO SUSPEND ANY ASPECT OF ITS OWN ASAT
PROGRAM OTHER THAN TESTING IN SPACE.

6. KHLESTOV ASKED IF THE US SIDE WAS GOING TO
PRESENT THESE SAME DETAILS IN A PLENARY MEETING.
BUCHHEIM ASKED IF KHLESTOV THOUGHT WE SHOULD. KHLESTOV
SAID NO, IT WOULD BE BETTER NOT TO. BUCHHEIM SAID
HE HAD ASSUMED THAT TO BE KHLESTOV'S VIEW SINCE HE

HAD REFRAINED FROM ANY MENTION IN PLENARY OF THIS SUBJECT.

7. IT WAS AGREED THAT, SUBJECT TO CHANGE, IF CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE THAT CALL FOR CHANGE, THE LAST DAY OF THIS ROUND WILL BE JUNE 16, 1978.

8. IT WAS AGREED, IN CONTEXT OF AGREEMENT IN PARA. 6, ABOVE, THAT PRESS RELEASE SHOULD BE DONE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND HELSINKI AT 10:00 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME, SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1978.

9. KHLESTOV SAID THAT PRESENT SOVIET VIEW IS THAT SECOND ROUND SHOULD BE HELD "LATE IN THIS YEAR."
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BUCHHEIM SAID US HAD NO DEFINITE VIEW ON TIMING AT PRESENT.

10. IT WAS AGREED THAT TIME AND PLACE FOR SECOND ROUND COULD BE FIXED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, WITH BOTH SIDES WILLING TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO MADRID AS AN ACCEPTABLE PLACE.

11. NEXT PLENARY SET FOR 4:00 P.M. JUNE 15, 1978, AT SOVIET EMBASSY.
FRY

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NNN

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